THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that scrutiny of the operation of the stockinvest (SI) schemes by it and the Economic Intelligence Bureau have revealed that the scheme has facilitated corporate bodies, brokers, institutions, etc. to make high value applications for primary issues through SIs and get allotment under the proportionate allotment system. Operational irregularities, such as, issue of SIs without adequate deposit cover, issue of pre-dated SIs, issue of SIs in bulk for third parties etc. in violation of RBI's guidelines of issue of SIs, were also observed. It was, therefore, decided that the facility of SI should be permitted only to individuals and mutual funds and that too against the lien on term deposits, credit, balances available in savings bank/current accounts of the investors. However, as serious irregularities still persisted in the operation of SI Scheme, it has been decided that a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per individual per capital issue should be prescribed for issues of SIs by banks.

(e) Show-cause notice have been issued by RBI to some banks asking them to explain why a penalty of Rs. 5 lakhs and prohibition of issue of stock invests by the banks in future should not be imposed.

(f) Does not arise.

High Court Bench in Saurashtra

2696. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand for setting up of High Court Benches in Bhavnagar district and other districts in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute any committee or commission to consider this demand afresh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such Benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from Bar Associations etc. from time to time for establishment of Benches of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot, Surat, Baroda, Kutch and Bhavnagar.

(c) to (e). The Government of Gujarat constituted in 1983 one-man Commission of Shri D.G. Palekar, retired Judge of the Supreme Court to study the demands and to advise the State Government. In its report dated 23.8.85, the Commission recommended that a circuit bench of the Gujarat High Court could be established on the initiative of the Chief Justice subject to Governor's approval under Section 28(3) of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960. The Commission also recommended that there were no historical, geographical or even sentimental reasons for establishing permanent Benches anywhere in the State. The Government accepted the recommendations and sent a copy of the report to the High Court. As such, there is no proposal to constitute any Committee or Commission to consider the demand afresh.

(f) Does not arise.

Disinvestment by Public Sector Banks

2697. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of disinvestment made by the public sector banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) whether some more public sector banks propose to disinvest their equity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government have not disinvested any of its shares in public sector banks during the last two years.

(b) The proposal of one public sector bank to go in for a public issue contains a component proposing disinvestment of a part of Government's capital.

(c) RBI has initiated action to examine the proposal,

Setting up of Sericulture Centres in NE Region

2698. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a sum of Rs. 12.60 crores has been sanctioned for development and setting up of Sericulture Training Centres in North-Eastern States, but no work has been undertaken till date;

(b) whether the Central Silk Board has taken up any survey of such schemes/programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The programme formulated by the Central Silk Board (CSB) at a total cost of Rs. 12.95 crores for the development of sericulture in North-Eastern Region is being implemented in collaboration with the States of the Region. Under this programme, 5 Project Offices, one Research Extension Centre for Mulberry, two Silkworm Seed Production Centres for Muga and one